

State Agencies Issue Advisory for Devil's Swamp, Bayou Baton Rouge Area

Officials Warn Against Participating in Water Activities and Eating Fish from the Area

Baton Rouge, La. – The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWF) today jointly released an update to the advisory for the Devil's Swamp and Bayou Baton Rouge area in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The agencies sampled largemouth bass, channel catfish, crappie, bluegill and crawfish from the area, which is bounded on the north by Hall Buck Marine Road, on the east by the bluffs and Baton Rouge Barge Harbor, and on the south and west by the Mississippi River. Unacceptable levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury were found in some species of the sampled fish.

In addition to avoiding consumption of fish and crawfish from the area, state agencies continue to advise the public to avoid swimming and participating in water activities in the affected area. The fish were also tested for hexachlorobenzene (HCB), hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD), arsenic and lead.

The advisory is based on sampling data from 2012 – 2013 and supersedes a previous advisory issued for the area on July 9, 1993. Any further sampling of this area will be evaluated to determine the need for further modifications to the current recommendations.

For more information regarding this advisory, contact DHH at 1-888-293-7020. If you have questions or concerns about your health, please consult a physician.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals strives to protect and promote health statewide and to ensure access to medical, preventive and rehabilitative services for all state citizens. To learn more about DHH, visit www.dhh.louisiana.gov. For up-to-date health information, news and emergency updates, follow DHH's [Twitter](#) account and [Facebook](#).

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